I say irrespective of any further consideration, whether the final orders of the Government have been passed or if the Government have on any score whatsoever to settle with the Municipality, the Government, I submit, ought to sanction the opening of hydrants on the public roads and the Public Works Department be asked to carry out the work. The Committee's report may not be final, it may not be satisfactory to the Municipality or to the Government. These considerations are entirely beside the point. These requests, I understand, are not being made now by the Municipality, because the Municipality knows by experience that there is no use of sending these reports. Now, in the face of the statement made by the Government Member, the Municipality will, I suppose, continue to send more and more requests to the Government. My only request is that these requests of the Municipality may at once be sanctioned. And even assuming that there are controversies still pending adjustment, the question of opening more public hydrants should not be delayed even for a minute. The controversies may be settled. I am firmly of the conviction, in view of the statement made by the Government Member, that the Government is entirely at agreement with me in my statement of this proposition, namely, the Government will not place any obstacle whatsoever in the attempts of the Municipality to open more and more hydrants. Seeing that we have got it, I do not think there is any necessity to press this resolution. But I may add another word. We have not at all to take the arguments that have been raised in the discussion on the other aspects of the matter, although certain statements were made as side issues. There are various things to be said on the question of dual control or on the question of individual control or on the question of metering and all that. We have distinctly to remember that nothing has been said on these matters, except as side reference which I do not propose to answer.

The resolution was with leave withdrawn.

19. Water beds in Kole Fields.

As the mover was absent the following resolution was considered withdrawn.

Mr. Ouseph P. Kundukulam:—"*This Council recommends to the Government to create water beds in Kole fields covering 100 acres for every 1,000 acres of cultivating Kole lands*"

20. Improvement of Agriculture.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—"This Council recommends to the Government to take immediate steps for the improvement of agriculture (after collecting fuller tatistics of the present condition of the agriculturists) by way of—

(1) intensive propaganda aided by magic lantern and cinema shows and free demonstration on the ryots' land;

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(ii) gradual conversion of the English and Vernacular primary schools in predominantly rural areas into 'agricultural bias' schools on the Punjab model;

(iii) popularisation of agricultural loans, a portion of such loans being placed at the disposal of the Co-operative Societies; and

(iv) by the issue on the credit, of seeds, improved plough and other implements, manures, etc., under a special agency".

Sir, I need not say that Cochin is mainly an agricultural country and that the material prosperity of this State depends to a great extent upon how agriculture is developed from day to day. My resolution contains a few methods by which agriculture can be improved and developed in this country. Sir, intensive propaganda work is the first method advocated. It may be argued that in certain ryots' lands already demonstrations have been conducted and thus the Government are doing all they can in this connection. My humble submission is that the demonstrations, if any so far conducted, have not been of any practical advantage to the ryots. The methods demonstrated are heavily costly and they are out of proportion with the possible out-turn.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Will the Hon'ble Member point out specific cases wherein such demonstrations have proved to be unprofitable?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I am told that the demonstration conducted in certain fields at Chettupuzha in Trichur Taluk, has been too very costly and that it has therefore been of no benefit to the agriculturists of the place. I am referring to your Kuttaden crop demonstration.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We have not conducted any demonstration.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I am sorry the Hon'ble Member does not know what is taking place under his own department. You got down a particular kind of seed from Burma or so and demonstrated with it. It did not give you good out-turn, while you had to incur extra expenses in that connection. I think the seed was got down from Burma, paying a very heavy price and the methods employed were very costly.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I think it was purely for experimental purposes. You should make some difference between demonstrations and experiments.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—All your demonstrations are only experiments. You do not really know where you are. That is the whole difficulty. You know only how things are done elsewhere. Your getting trained in a foreign country makes you unadaptable to local conditions. You have not yet succeeded in convincing the ryots how with local resources, they could conduct agriculture in a better and more profitable way. Teach them, how with less cost, they can get a better out-turn. That

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is what is actually required in order to convince our people that there is some science in agriculture. May I request the Member for Agriculture to tell me whether there has been any instance where any ryot has been taught by demonstration that he can carry on agriculture in a more profitable way and at a lesser cost, by employing scientific methods of agriculture? I pause for a reply.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The result have been published and this House is aware of those results.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.— What is the harm in repeating your results once more now? Since the Government have now accepted definitely the policy of carrying on demonstrations in the ryots' lands, this aspect of the question may be seriously considered hereafter. The public of Cochin ought to be convinced that by adopting new methods of agriculture, they stand to gain much more than what they would otherwise get by employing their old methods.

The 2nd step advocated is the gradual conversion of the English and Vernacular primary schools into agricultural bias schools. Of course, in our primary schools gardening is being encouraged and it is one of the items taught to the students. These lessons in gardening are indeed very good for the children. They get a liking for agriculture. But, let me observe that flower gardens of the school do not really give the boys the first elements of real agriculture. What we want is to teach our boys how best to employ the scientific methods of agriculture, which are the best seasons, which are the best soil for different kinds of seeds and so on.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—What are these 'bias schools'?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—'Bias schools' are schools where, if I am correctly informed, students are taught the different methods of agriculture. I tried to find out the details of such schools from the Punjab educational authorities; but I have not yet received any reply. This morning I asked the Hon'ble Member for Agriculture about these schools, but he could not enlighten me either. I am glad that our Education Department has already moved in that line, and I think that in course of time our boys will get their first elements of agriculture from our schools. In other words a bias will be created in their minds for taking to agriculture in their later life.

No. 3 is the popularisation of agricultural loans—a portion of such loans being placed at the disposal of the Co-operative Societies. Of course, agricultural loans are being advanced by the Government to the ryots. It is gratifying to note that the Government are giving their best attention in the

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matter of distributing these loans to those who mostly stand in need of it and I think it is well-managed and well done in these days. But I want to point out that it could be better done by our co-operative societies where people have more access. These societies can know more intimately the necessities of the people of the country. Therefore, such societies can judge better as to how much is wanted by each individual agriculturist, when it is wanted and for what time it is wanted. I am not underrating what is being done now by the Government. But I only want to point out that, if this power of advancing money to the agriculturists is vested in the societies, it could be carried out more popularly and with more benefit. Then with regard to the advancing of seeds and manure on credit. One great handicap in the line of the agriculturist is his not having sufficient capital to invest on seeds, manure, or costly implements. For instance, the other day a demonstration was conducted at Trichur where ploughing was done by machine. Of course, ploughing by machine may be a very profitable thing, if one can afford to go in for that. But who is to finance it? An ordinary man cannot. So that if there are societies or if there are agencies of the Government which can advance on credit the use of these implements, certainly the ordinary ryot will be able to take advantage of the situation. Otherwise it is out of the question. If ploughing can be done by machine which can be had on hire from the Government, the ryots need not invest any money in purchasing and maintaining bullocks and bulls.

There must exist also some kind of society or agency from which seeds could be had on credit. There the ryots would not be put to the difficulty of finding money to invest on the purchase of seeds. They can have seeds on credit and they need return it after harvest only.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—On what security is the amount to be given?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—On the security of lands. Most of these people are agriculturists. They own plenty of lands, but then they may not have money in cash. These credit societies can lend money on the security of lands. I think it is a very serious thing for the Government to take up this question at once. I therefore, pray that the resolution be accepted by the House.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—I second it.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Well, I may tell for the information of the House that the Government are more or less in full sympathy with the resolution, brought by the Hon'ble Member,

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The first point referred to in the resolution is to take immediate steps for the improvement of agriculture after collecting fuller statistics of the present condition of agriculturists. We propose to conduct a soil survey of the State. When that is completed, we shall have a very full knowledge about agriculture, condition of soil, irrigation, drainage, stock and so forth. The chief work that one has to do in conducting a soil survey is of course the analysis of soils for which we want a laboratory. The laboratory will be fitted up during the course of this year. The next point referred to by the Hon'ble Member is intensive propaganda aided by magic lantern lectures, cinema shows and free demonstration on the ryots' lands. The propaganda that we do is by holding lectures and informal talks on agriculture in a number of places. The Inspectors are going about in villages and giving whatever advice they can, for the improvement of agriculture. Hereafter we propose to hold a number of demonstrations in ryots' lands. We restrict them for the time being to about half a dozen centres in each Taluk. We also propose to have two more taluk farms, one in Chittur, and another in Chalakkudi. In Chalakkudi we propose to devote special attention to the cultivation of sugar-cane.

Then as regards the dissemination of agricultural knowledge, the method that we now adopt is by training a number of teachers who are already employed in primary schools. These teachers are given a year's training in the theory and practice of agriculture in the Central Farm At the end of the year they are sent out and they become agricultural instructors in the primary schools in the various parts of the State. These teachers of course cannot teach the principles of agriculture, especially to children in primary schools, because a knowledge in agriculture means a knowledge of the important sciences which have a bearing on agriculture. What the children get with the help of the teachers is a general idea of what they should do there in the matter of growing vegetables and flowers. We call it gardening. In half a dozen high schools in the State, agriculture is taught as one of the subjects for the School Final course and some of these students can either take up agriculture as their subject for their college course or they can go back to their farms and do farming. They have now a course of two years' training and within that two years, they generally get a fair working knowledge in agriculture.

The next point referred to by the Hon'ble Member is the gradual conversion of the English and Vernacular Primary Schools, in predominantly rural areas, into, 'agricultural bias' schools on the Punjab model. I do not know exactly what the Punjab model is. The Hon'ble mover himself was asking me

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what exactly the Punjab model was. So, it is not known even to the member who moved the resolution. The next subject before the House is popularisation of agricultural loans, a portion of such loans being placed at the disposal of the Co-operative Societies, by the issue on credit of seeds, improved plough and other implements, manures, etc. under a special agency. Well, this is a matter in which the Government can do very little. We have a few seed and manure depots. What the Government can do is very little when compared with the requirements of the rural population, I think it would be a very good idea if Co-operative Societies are organised on some proper lines, i.e., societies for the production and distribution of manures, seeds, etc. What the Government can do is that they can place a better kind of seeds, etc. at the disposal of the societies and the societies can in their turn distribute the seeds, etc. to their clients. The powers of the Government in this matter are very limited. We propose to have a seed and manure depot in all the Taluk Head Quarters and that is the only possible thing which can be done by the Government.

Well, the Hon'ble Member made certain observations about some demonstrations carried out at Chettupuzha. It was not a demonstration. I got some information from Burma that they have a type of paddy which could be grown in deep water. I got some seeds from Burma and had it sown in a number of places. This was some years ago. After 4 or 5 years, I got stock of the same seeds and had it tried at a place called Veluthur, further away from Chettupuzha and they were sown in lands where there are now kuttadan seeds. Sowing was done in Meenam and the paddy was ready for harvest some time in Vrischigam. There is a great draw-back in Malabar. There is very little paddy in Malabar which will flower in Thulam and the difficulty is that all the insects which are found in that particular locality get on these crops. So we lost very heavily on that experiment. The experiment was not repeated. The Hon'ble Member was saying that it was a demonstration. It was not a demonstration, but only an experiment. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was with leave withdrawn.

21. Public roads and Lanes in Panambukad, etc.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.— "In view of the great inconvenience and hardship caused to the general public of Panambukad, Mulavukad, Kadamakkudi, Kothad and Korampadam, owing to the absence of public ways, this Council recommends to the Government that the Government may be pleased to take immediate steps to redress the grievance of the public of these places by opening public roads and lanes."

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